the Law Commission's recommendations and suggested that variations can be made for different jurisdictions on the basis of pendency, rate of disposal and other relevant factors in consultation with the judiciary.

The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 21.3.2002 in W.P. (Civil) No. 1022/89. All India Judges Association *Vs.* Union of India & others has suggested that the increase in the judge strength to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented with the filling of the posts in a phased manner to be determined and directed by the Union Ministry of Law, but this process should be completed and the increased vacancies and posts filled within a period of five years from today.

Merging of companies

†4159. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of companies of corporate sector finally merged during the last three years;

(b) the details of assets and liabilities of the companies they merged into; and

(c) the details of the companies proposed and under consideration for merger?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Judges in High Courts

4160. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of judges in the High Courts of Tamil Nadu and other States due to which a large number of cases are pending; and

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to fill up such posts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As on May 2, 2002, against the approved Judge strength of 647 (including 43 new posts) of the High Courts, there were 492 Judges in position leaving 155 posts vacant. A statement showing the number of vacancies in each High Court is annexed. (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.